

**This is a courtesy copy of an email bulletin sent by Chad Somerville.**

**This bulletin was sent to the following groups of people:**

Subscribers of Financial Aid Directors - Four-Year Public Colleges, Financial Aid Directors - Private Colleges, Financial Aid Directors - Special, Financial Aid Directors - Two-Year Public Colleges, Foster Care, GEAR UP Coordinators, GEAR UP Scholarship Liaisons, High School Counselors, High School Lead Administrators, SSG Contacts - Four-Year Public Colleges, SSG Contacts - Private Colleges, SSG Contacts - Special, SSG Contacts - Two-Year Public Colleges, or Scholarships & Grants News and Information, (27545 recipients)



#### **MI Student Aid**

Michigan Department of Treasury  
Student Financial Services Bureau

[www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid](http://www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid)

1-888-4-GRANTS

(888-447-2687)

[mistudentaid@michigan.gov](mailto:mistudentaid@michigan.gov)

## ***Information on Financial Aid and College Access***

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### **November is Scholarship Month!**



#### **Scholarships: Apply & Win**

Applying for scholarships can feel like an incredibly daunting task on top of everything else that goes with preparing for college; however, in the long run, the hours spent applying for scholarships can save a person from thousands of dollars of debt.

Time Magazine released some tips on how to win scholarships earlier this year and we've picked a couple of our favorites, along with some tips and tricks of our own.

#### **Apply for Local Scholarships**

Local scholarships provide the best odds due to the fact that they are open to a smaller group of students. Many of these local scholarships are provided through the community foundation in your county; check with teachers, guidance counselors, and even Google to track down the best scholarships that could be right in your hometown. Our customer care unit is available to help students with their search too. With a simple phone call to 1-888-4-GRANTS, our team will look-up scholarships based on where you live and what your interests are.

#### **Know Where to Look**

Do you know the main sources of financial aid? Federal and state government, colleges/universities, and private entities provide a majority of the financial aid in the US. Now, these are not all scholarships, which is why it is important to do your research because most financial aid is awarded based on the FAFSA, private scholarships are not. When looking for scholarships, start local and work your way outward. Search your church Web site, community portals, TV and radio station Web sites, small businesses, and benefactors; when it comes to hunting down free money, leave no rock un-turned. You never know who is willing to give out a scholarship until you start looking!

#### **Get Personal**

Think about it, everyone has an attribute that sets them apart from the rest of the world. Are you abnormally tall? Left-handed? Vegetarian? Been in a car crash? Many people and institutions give out scholarships for unique qualities because it means you have a story to tell and a different perspective to bring into the world. Take some time to think about anything that could make you unique and do some research, you never know what money could be out there for you!

#### **Proofread**

This may seem like a no brainer, but a reminder to proofread that essay could be the difference between your essay getting read or thrown out. Read your essay out loud, this is a good way for you to really be able to listen to how your essay would sound to someone else. Your brain has a way of fixing errors for you when you read in your head, which makes reading out loud to yourself or to your parents a great method to correct any errors. Alleviating grammatical errors ahead of time allows the reviewer to concentrate on the content of your essay without being distracted by mistakes.

### Meet the Requirements

Take a look at everything that you need for the scholarship application, some scholarships need more than just an essay, you might also need to provide a copy of your resume. It is important to make sure that your resume details your experiences with community involvement, such as community service, any clubs or organizations, or even general volunteer experience. Being able to show that you can give back to the community makes scholarship donors more likely to give their money to you.

\*Source: Unigo

**Contact MI Student Aid at 1-888-4-GRANTS (888-447-2687)  
to help you with your scholarship search!**

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## Featured Student Scholarships and Grants (SSG) Program



The Michigan Children of Veterans Tuition Grant (CVTG) administered by SSG, provides undergraduate tuition assistance to children of deceased or totally and permanently disabled members of the armed forces of the United States. Read more about [CVTG eligibility requirements and the application process](#).

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## MI Student Aid Publications Available for FREE!



MI Student Aid has added new and restocked our popular publications/materials to assist students and families with planning and paying for college.

### **MISSG Postcard:**

The MiSSG informational card provides details on the new MiSSG Web portal for students. The card explains what the portal can be utilized for and how to access it. The MiSSG informational card is helpful in educating students on how to go create an account.

### **Financial Aid Common Mistakes:**

We all know that filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([FAFSA](#)) can be cumbersome. That is why our Financial Aid Common Mistakes publication can be a go-to in ensuring you are completing the financial aid process right! Our Financial Aid Common Mistakes publication details many mistakes

you want to stay away from when filing for financial aid.

### **Tuition Incentive Program:**

The Tuition Incentive Program (TIP) Flyer describes eligibility requirements, the application process, and the differences between TIP Phase I and TIP Phase II benefits. Included in the TIP Flyer is a list of participating institutions.

### **Programs at a Glance:**

Our Programs at a Glance is a quick reference to all State of Michigan financial aid programs. Learn about the eligibility requirements and program details.

### **Affording College in Michigan Guidebook:**

MI Student Aid's Affording College in Michigan: Guidebook for Students and Families, provides tools, resources, and information regarding preparation for college in Michigan. Sections of the Guidebook include; Pre-Planning and Applying for College, Financial Steps to Paying for College, Federal and State Financial Aid, Scholarship Resources, and a complete directory of Michigan Colleges and Universities.

Be sure to check out all of our publications and [place an order today!](#)

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## **RCA Recording Artist Dee-1 Takes the Stage with MI Student Aid**

MI Student Aid, recently partnered with Sallie Mae and former middle school teacher turned hip-hop artist and motivational speaker, [Dee-1](#), to promote planning for college. Dee-1 met with high school students in Lansing, Waverly, and Holt, Michigan ending the day with a pop-up concert at Michigan State University as part of Dee-1's [Knowledge for College Tour](#), sponsored by Sallie Mae. He performed his hit song, "[Sallie Mae Back](#)," to educate students on the importance of planning for college. With "Sallie Mae Back," Dee-1 brought a new lyrical twist to the hip hop world: the promotion of financial responsibility. Not only did Dee-1 speak about the importance of a college education, one student in the audience at each stop on the tour received \$5,000 for college from Sallie Mae.



A [video montage](#) from the events is available for viewing. Learn more about [Dee-1](#) and what inspired him to enter the hip-hop industry.

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## **Scholarship Searching Webinar Recording Now Available**

The [November edition of the MI Student Aid Webinar Series](#), featuring Sallie Mae, provided scholarship searching tips and information to students and families who are hunting for free money for college. A recording of the Webinar is available, which covers the need-to-know tips to scholarship searching, and provides information about Sallie Mae's scholarship searching tool. The searching tool allows you to customize your search depending on your interests, age, grade level, and more. You can even set up special account alerts to notify you when a new scholarship opportunity that matches your profile becomes available.

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## **Need Help Filing Your FAFSA?**



### **You could lose out on thousands of dollars for college!**

Don't let that happen. If you are graduating from high school in 2017 or if you're already in college, you need to submit the FAFSA. To get the most financial aid for college, your application needs to be turned in by March 1.

Make sure you do it right. Attend a Michigan College Goal to have an expert help you fill out the FAFSA — FREE!

[Find a College Goal event near you.](#)

*\*Source MI College Goal*

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## **Upcoming Events**

### **November 25-26**

10:00am - 7:00pm

MHSAA High School Football Finals at Ford Field

2000 Brush Street

Detroit, MI 48226

### **December 1**

6:00pm - 7:15pm

Financial Aid Night Presentation

Wayne Memorial High School

3001 4th Street

Wayne, MI 48184

### **December 14**

5:00pm - 7:00pm

Community College & Trade School Night

Chandler Park Academy High School

20254 Kelly Road

Harper Woods, MI 48225



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Michigan Department of Treasury  
MI Student Aid  
Contact us at: [mistudentaid@michigan.gov](mailto:mistudentaid@michigan.gov)

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